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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/17/2016

TAGS: PREL PDOV BK FI

SUBJECT: FINNISH EU PRESIDENCY REITERATES SUPPORT FOR

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN BIH

REF: STATE 113492

Classified By: POLCHIEF GREGORY THOME FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

(C) PolChief delivered subject demarche July 14 to MFA Western Balkans Office Director Juha Ottman. Ottman said the GOF, both nationally and in its current role as EU President, fully supports constitutional reform in BiH; shares our concerns about the possible negative impact of the PACE resolution, and would not welcome any resolutions that might have the possible impact of "re-opening Dayton". He added that the PACE resolution will have no impact on Finnish policies and that the GOF will urge others to downplay the resolution. WARE